

## Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 MMO-01 /017 W

----- 030898

O R 111603Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6606

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS, CU/EE; USIA FOR IEU PASS SADLIK AND PAO FERNANDEZ

CU/ARTS FOR GUY CORIDEN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

REF: STATE 032544, BUCHAREST 0603

1. YOU AND I HAVE BOTH HAD ENOUGH EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH ROMANIA AND ROMANIANS OVER THE YEARS SO THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I AM APPEALING TO YOU FOR HELP IN TRYING TO RESOLVE WHAT SEEMS TO ME AN UNNECESSARY STALEMATE BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BUCHAREST OVER TERMS FOR THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC. I'M SORRY THE QUESTION DIDN'T COME UP WHEN WE SAW EACH OTHER IN WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. I SET FORTH BELOW THE CURRENT SITUATION AND MY VIEWS ON IT AND HOPE WE CAN GET AWAY FROM THE ULTIMATUM TYPE APPROACH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT'S LAST TELEGRAM REPRESENTED.

2. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR EVENT LIKE LAPO AND HISTORY OF LONG NEGOTIATIONS HERE, I REGRET DEPARTMENT WAITED EIGHT DAYS TO REPLY TO OUR LAST CABLE (BUCHAREST 0603) AND THEN SET DEADLINE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEW HOURS IN WHICH TO WORK OUT DETAILS. I WOULD APPRECIATE

EXTENSION OF THAT DEADLINE AND REQUEST ACTION OFFICER IN CU/ARTS TO PHONE ME DURING EMBASSY WORKING HOURS THURSDAY TO DISCUSS LAPO PROBLEM.

3. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF STATE 032544 WITH CAO TODAY, ILEASA OF COUNCIL MADE FINAL OFFER OF 63,000 LEI FOR LAPO TRANSPORT COSTS, ABOUT FIFTY PERCENT OF TOTAL AND FAR BELOW 90-95 PERCENT DEMANDED BY DEPARTMENT.

4. ILEASA PROMISED TO CABLE DEVELOPMENT TO GOR DEPFORMIN GLIGA, WHO IS IN DEPARTMENT TODAY AND TOMORROW AS HEAD OF DELEGATION AT MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS. IF HIS BUSY SCHEDULE PERMITS, SUGGEST CU/ARTS CONTACT GLIGA THROUGH CU/EE TO ENLIST HIS ASSISTANCE IN FINAL RESOLUTION OF MATTER.

5. I CONFESS TO CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING DEPARTMENT'S LATEST POSITION. SINCE EARLIEST CABLES IN 1974, POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN MENTIONED THAT EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE TO HELP DEFRAY TRANSPORTATION COSTS. NOT ONCE HAS THERE BEEN ANY DEPARTMENT OBJECTION. EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE IS MEASURE OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO LAPO APPEARANCE AS ONLY MAJOR CULTURAL EVENT FOR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT FACT THAT SHARE OF TRANSPORT COSTS APPEARS TO US TO BE UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG EE COUNTRIES, WARSAW-BUCHAREST BEING LONGEST LEG ON TOUR. WE DON'T OF COURSE KNOW WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE PAYING SINCE CHARTER RATES MAY DIFFER, BUT PRO-RATA SHARE OF TOTAL TRANSPORT COSTS WOULD HAVE BEEN FAIRER ARRANGEMENT. SINCE RAIL TRANSPORT FROM VIENNA TO BUDAPEST MUCH LESSEXPENSIVE THAN AIR CHARTER FROM WARSAW TO BUCHAREST, FOR EXAMPLE, ROMANIANS IN EFFECT ARE BEING ASKED TO HELP SUBSIDIZE LAPO APPEARANCE IN BUDAPEST. ESSENCE OF OUR ARGUMENT IS NOT THAT BUDAPEST SHOULD BE ASKED TO PAY MORE, BUT THAT BUCHAREST SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY MORE THAN OTHERS FOR SAME ATTRACTION. FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE THAT GOR SHOULD SHARE IN COST OF BRINGING SUCH OUTSTANDING (AND EXPENSIVE) GROUPS HERE. NOW THAT WE HAVE WON POINT WE ARE DISCOURAGED TO LEARN THAT AT LAST MOMENT DEPARTMENT WANTS TO CHANGE GROUND RULES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE ASSUMED WERE PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTABLE (I.E., USE OF GOE). WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THIS POINT AND ELEMENT OF LACK OF EQUITY IN EXPECTING ROMANIANS TO PAY GREATER SHARE OF BURDEN DURING OUR CONVERSATION TOMORROW. BARNES

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